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| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO.      |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 09/504,293   | 02/15/2000  | Osamu Nakazawa       | SAT-145             | 7676                  |
| 23995  | 7590        | 02/14/2006           | EXAMINER            |                       |
| RABIN & Berdo, PC<br>1101 14TH STREET, NW<br>SUITE 500<br>WASHINGTON, DC 20005 |             |                      |                     | SALL, EL HADJI MALICK |
|  |             | ART UNIT             |                     | PAPER NUMBER          |
|  |             |                      |                     | 2157                  |

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                                     |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b>              | <b>Applicant(s)</b>     |
|                              | 09/504,293                          | NAKAZAWA, OSAMU         |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>El Hadji M. Sall | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2157 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 February 2000.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 5-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2-4 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on February 15, 2000. Claims 1-7 are pending. Claims 1-7 represent distributed directory management system.

2. ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 2-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

3. ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.

Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin et al. U.S. 6,553,368 in view of Ito et al. U.S. 6,359,909.

Martin teaches the invention substantially as claimed including network directory access mechanism (abstract).

As to claim 1, Martin teaches a distributed directory management system for offering a retrieval service with respect to service objects stored in object repositories located in service spaces, respectively, said system comprising a service space centralized managing mechanism, service object managing mechanism provided corresponding to said service spaces, respectively, service space connection managing mechanisms provided corresponding to said service spaces, respectively, and service object retrieval managing mechanisms provided corresponding to said service spaces, respectively (column 1, line 63 to column 2, line 15, Martin discloses a method of accessing a directory to retrieve information via a domain definition for a domain of the directory); and

Wherein each of said service object retrieval managing mechanisms sends a retrieval message from a user to corresponding one of said service object managing

mechanisms to request retrieval of a service object in said corresponding one of said object repositories, receives a result of the retrieval from said corresponding one of said service object managing mechanisms, analyzes the result of the retrieval and produces a message to be sent to the user based on the analyzed result of the retrieval (column 4, lines 41-54).

Martin fails to teach explicitly service space centralized managing mechanism collects mutual connection information of said service spaces from said service space connection managing mechanisms and manages the collected mutual connection information; and implements message communication with said service object managing mechanisms to collect mutual connection information of corresponding one of said service spaces and another of said service spaces, and manages the collected mutual connection information.

However, Ito teaches switch device for relaying cells or packets on demand. Ito teaches service space centralized managing mechanism collects mutual connection information of said service spaces from said service space connection managing mechanisms and manages the collected mutual connection information; and implements message communication with said service object managing mechanisms to collect mutual connection information of corresponding one of said service spaces and another of said service spaces, and manages the collected mutual connection information (column 12, lines 37-42, Ito discloses collecting and managing a variety of information; column 22, lines 30-36, Ito discloses collecting connection information).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Marin in view of Ito to provide service space centralized managing mechanism collects mutual connection information of said service spaces from said service space connection managing mechanisms and manages the collected mutual connection information; and implements message communication with said service object managing mechanisms to collect mutual connection information of corresponding one of said service spaces and another of said service spaces, and manages the collected mutual connection information. One would be motivated to do so to allow monitoring the network.

As to claim 5, Martin teaches the distributed directory management system according to claim 1, wherein upon receiving the retrieval message from the user, corresponding one of said service object retrieval managing mechanisms uses the mutual connection information managed by corresponding one of said service space connection managing mechanisms so as to send said retrieval message to corresponding one of said service spaces and another of said service spaces for requesting (figure 6; column 6, lines 33-44).

**5.** Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin et al. U.S. 6,553,368 in view of Ito et al. U.S. 6,359,909, and further in view of Stokes et al. U.S. 6,339,827.

As to claims 6 and 7, Martin and Ito teach the distributed directory management system according to claim 1.

Martin and Ito fail to teach the system further comprising directory managing authentication mechanisms provided corresponding to said service spaces, respectively, wherein each of said directory managing authentication mechanisms has a function of issuing a ticket for using the retrieval service to a user and, when said ticket is submitted by the user, verifies legitimacy of the ticket, and of verifying legitimacy of a digitally signed retrieval message of a user so as to allow said user to access to corresponding one of said object repositories.

However, Stokes teaches method for securing sensitive data in a LDAP directory service utilizing a client and/or server control. Stokes teaches the system further comprising directory managing authentication mechanisms provided corresponding to said service spaces, respectively, wherein each of said directory managing authentication mechanisms has a function of issuing a ticket for using the retrieval service to a user and, when said ticket is submitted by the user, verifies legitimacy of the ticket, and of verifying legitimacy of a digitally signed retrieval message of a user so as to allow said user to access to corresponding one of said object repositories (column 2, lines 7-14; column 9, lines 47-58, Stokes discloses the server side may be used for signature verification).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Martin in view of Ito, and further in view of Stokes to provide the

system further comprising directory managing authentication mechanisms provided corresponding to said service spaces, respectively, wherein each of said directory managing authentication mechanisms has a function of issuing a ticket for using the retrieval service to a user and, when said ticket is submitted by the user, verifies legitimacy of the ticket, and of verifying legitimacy of a digitally signed retrieval message of a user so as to allow said user to access to corresponding one of said object repositories. One would be motivated to do so to allow securing sensitive data in the directory service (abstract).

**6.**

***Citation of Relevant Prior Art***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Prior art: 6,208,986, 6,101,539, 6,983,276, 5,907,837 and 6,366,913 are cited because of their use of LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol), which is a protocol used to access a directory listing allowing the retrieval of information/data in a storage/database system.

7.

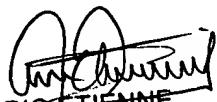
***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to El Hadji M Sall whose telephone number is 571-272-4010. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

El Hadji Sall  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit: 2157

  
ARIO ETIENNE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

